

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION AWARDS \$500,000 IN GRANTS FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES, NONPROFITS

Environmental Affairs Secretary Robert W. Golledge Jr. today announced more than \$500,000 in new funding to help 9 coastal towns reduce or eliminate non-point source pollution, the leading cause of water quality impairment in the nation. Non-point source pollution occurs when water from rainfall or snowmelt gathers pollutants during drainage and deposits them into coastal waters. Since 2003 more than \$3.4 million has been awarded to support 83 projects with 69 grants being awarded to communities and 14 to other public or nonprofit organizations.

The following cities and towns will receive grants to help them measure and remediate non-point source pollution from stormwater runoff and boat waste discharges that threaten fragile coastal ecosystems: Brewster; Dennis; Duxbury; Ipswich; Medford; Nantucket; Plymouth; Yarmouth and Franklin which is not a coastal town but is located in a coastal watershed. Group grant recipients include the Charles River Watershed Association, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and Salem Sound Coastwatch.

"Cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth are working hard to cut out non-point source pollution, and it is our job to provide the funds and technical assistance to make their job easier," said Golledge.

To follow are descriptions of the Coastal Pollution Remediation (CPR) and Coastal Non-point Source Grant (Coastal NPS) projects announced today:

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CPR Program Awards

Town of Ipswich: Farley Brook Stormwater Assessment and Best Management Practice (BMP) Identification

Award: \$25,000

The project will map the stormwater infrastructure draining to Farley Brook, evaluate land use characteristics in the watershed, and sample water quality to assess bacteria, metal, and petroleum hydrocarbon levels. Based on the assessment, appropriate BMPs will be identified and conceptual plans developed.

Town of Plymouth: Upgrade and Expansion of Town Wharf Pump-out System in Support of Federally Designated No Discharge Area (NDA)

Award: \$29,060

This project will upgrade and expand the pump-out facility at the Plymouth Town Wharf, adding significant pumping and storage capacity for the collection and disposal of sanitary waste from commercial and recreational vessels. The project supports the recent No Discharge Area designation for the waters of Kingston, Duxbury, and Plymouth, which prohibits boat waste discharge within Plymouth Bay.

Town of Nantucket: Construction of Consue Springs Stormwater BMP at Nantucket High School

Award: \$125,000

The Town of Nantucket has identified priority stormwater discharges for remediation in the Consue Springs watershed. This project will construct a subsurface stormwater infiltration system to be installed under the high school parking lot.

Town of Duxbury: Halls Corner BMP Construction

Award: \$125,000

Through this project, the Town of Duxbury will construct a series of stormwater infiltration chambers at Halls Corner based on an assessment that identified this area as a priority due to runoff volume, bacteria concentrations, and proximity to shellfish beds in Kingston Bay.

Towns of Yarmouth and Dennis: Bass River and Follins Pond Watershed Stormwater Implementation

Award: \$110.050

The Towns of Yarmouth and Dennis will install stormwater BMPs at four priority locations in the upper Bass River Watershed. The project design is based on past assessments that identified priority sites and appropriate mitigation measures. BMPs will include swales, bioretention cells, and grading modifications and will be implemented at two sites in each town. Additionally, a pump-out facility will be constructed at the Yarmouth Packet's Landing Marina.

Coastal NPS Program Awards

Salem Sound Coastwatch: Next Steps to Salem Sound No Discharge Designation

Award: \$20,000

This project will implement recommendations resulting from an assessment of boat waste disposal practices conducted by Salem Sound Coastwatch. This project will organize a Salem Sound working group on reducing boat waste discharge, increase the visibility of and improve pump-out facilities, and develop a comprehensive boater and marina outreach and education program to reduce the discharge of sanitary waste into Salem Sound.

City of Medford: Medford Taking the First Step: Stormwater Utility Evaluation

Award: \$20,000

This project will assess the potential viability of a stormwater financing mechanisms in Medford and includes the identification of an appropriate fee structure and the garnering of public support for such an initiative. The project will develop an estimated stormwater budget for the city and develop a potential rate structure for residential and business categories. The assessment will be presented at a public forum in coordination with the Mystic River Watershed Association with the goal of helping surrounding communities identify stormwater financing mechanisms.

Town of Franklin: Franklin Stormwater Utility

Award: \$19,900

The Town of Franklin will evaluate the potential costs, revenues, and organizational structure for creating a municipal stormwater financing mechanism. This project will initiate a Community Based Social Marketing program to help raise stormwater awareness in the town and to promote the benefits of an enhanced stormwater management budget.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC): Metro Boston Stormwater/Low Impact Development Capacity Building Project

Award: \$20,000

This project will provide resources for developing stormwater and low impact development (LID) bylaws in seven communities located within the MAPC region. MAPC will provide technical assistance to the towns by conducting intensive workshops and a regional stormwater/LID outreach campaign. Through the workshops, the towns will draft and revise bylaws, review local codes and their relation to stormwater management, and develop implementation strategies for any proposed regulatory changes.

Town of Brewster Department of Public Works: Assessment of Stormwater Drainage and Stormwater Pollutants in Paines Creek and Stony Brook Watershed, Brewster, MA

Award: \$19,150

This project will evaluate municipal stormwater drainage and stormwater pollutants in the Stony Brook watershed and develop a stormwater remediation plan. The Town is attempting to upgrade the status of conditionally approved shellfish growing areas in Paines Creek and maintain open shellfish beds in Brewster. The project includes a stormwater system inspection and inventory, drainage area delineation and mapping, water quality data analysis, and development of conceptual BMP design plans.

Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA): Assessment of Stormwater Funding Mechanisms in New England and Survey of Municipal Stormwater Financing in the Charles River Watershed Communities

Award: \$20,000

This project will identify municipalities in the Charles River Watershed that are candidates for adopting stormwater financing mechanisms. CRWA will evaluate the process used to develop and adopt the three existing stormwater financing mechanisms in New England. The project will strengthen CRWA's capacity to assist municipalities in identifying appropriate financing tools for stormwater mitigation.